United States Department of Agriculture

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Veterinary Services

The Republic of Ireland Embryo Transfer Society Meeting

Dublin, Ireland

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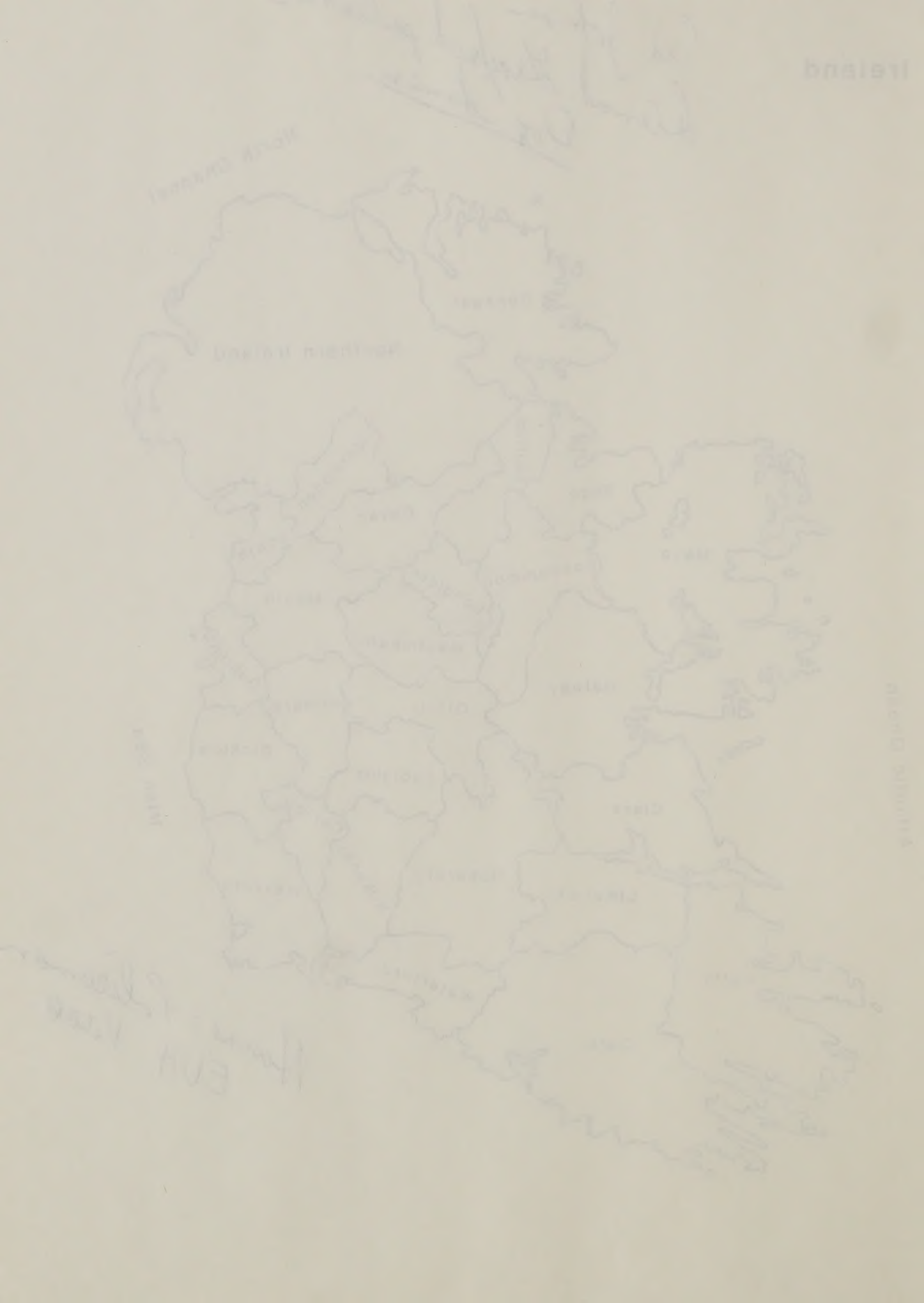

IRELAND

HISTORY:

Cut off from the major developments in Europe, Ireland struggled against domination by neighboring Britain for 800 years. Winning independence from the United Kingdom for five-sixths of the island in 1922, Ireland's leaders inherited a backward economy. Ongoing emigration, intensified by famine in the 1840s, reduced an 1841 population of 6.5 million to 2.8 million in 1961. Then the net loss ended as industrialization began to transform a predominantly agrarian society. Today Ireland attracts foreign investment with tax breaks and tariff-free access to EC markets, in a swing from trade dependence on the U.K. toward greater continental involvement.

The island of Ireland is divided politically into two parts-Ireland or Eire, informally but not officially called the "Republic of Ireland," and Northern Ireland, a part of the United Kingdom. Of the island's 32 counties, Ireland has 26 and Northern Ireland has 6. The partition of the island (since 1922) has been a subject of sensitive political controversy. The U.S. Embassy in Dublin has no jurisdiction in Northern Ireland. The U.S. Consul General in Belfast reports to London. The Irish government does not recognize Britain's claim to Northern Ireland and advocates peaceful unification of the entire island.

GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE:

The area of the 26 counties is 27,136 square miles. The country is roughly 135 miles wide and 300 miles long. It is situated to the extreme north-west of the Continent. The Irish Sea, separating it from Great Britain, is 60-120 miles across.

Newcomers are immediately impressed with the beauty and charm of the country. It offers widely varying landscapes-from mountain lake country to rolling agricultural and pastoral areas.

Dublin has a moderate climate. Temperatures range from $16^{o}F$ to nearly $75^{o}F$. The mean temperature during winter is about $40^{o}F$; summer $60^{o}F$. Ireland is noted for its "soft" weather. Rarely do several days go by without at least a shower. Temperatures occasionally drop below freezing during 5 months of the year. Light snow may fall during winter. Mild winds and fog are fairly common. Winds of gale proportions may occur, especially at night form November to May.

POPULATION:

Dublin's population is 620,000. Total population is 3,492,000. Business hours and attitudes are easy-going. The average per capita income is now over $3,000. English is the official language of the country, but the Government of Ireland is making serious efforts to revive Irish (Gaelic); 6% of the population speak Irish fluently. Ireland is 95% Roman Catholic.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS:

Ireland is a sovereign, independent, democratic state. It functions under a constitution adopted by plebiscite in 1937. its government is a parliamentary democracy, with a Parliament, a Prime Minister, and an elected President.

The three major political parties are Fianna Fail, Fine Gael, and Labor. Fianna Fail returned to power in June 1977 with the largest absolute majority in Irish history. Most government business takes place in the lower house, the Dail Eireann. The Prime Minister (Taoiseach) and other Ministers, with the exception of the Attorney General, are members of the Dail.

The Dail has 148 members elected by secret ballot. An election must be held at least every 5 years.

The President is elected by direct popular vote for a 7-year term and is eligible for only two terms. With Dail approval, the President appoints the Prime Minister who, in turn, names the other Cabinet ministers.

Modern Irish Law is based on common law and statute law. All judges independently exercise their functions, subject only to the constitution and the law.

ARTS, SCIENCE, AND EDUCATION:

The Irish Department of Education provides free primary and secondary education and substantially aids vocational schools and universities. Primary schools educate children to the age of 15; secondary schools to the age of 18. Vocational schools provide post-primary and technical education. Ireland´s literacy rate is 98%.

Two universities are in the Republic of Ireland-the University of Dublin (Trinity College) and the National University of Ireland, comprising four constituent colleges (Dublin, Cork, Galway, and Maynooth) and known as University College.

A vital force in the life of Ireland is the Royal Dublin Society, founded in 1731 to encourage agriculture and industry and to promote science and art. The Society´s many activities include sponsorship of the famous Dublin Horse Show. The Royal Irish Academy devotes itself to the promotion of natural sciences, mathematics, history, and literature. The Royal Hibernian Academy encourages the fine arts.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY:

Ireland's GNP exceeded $10 billion in 1977-about $3,100 per capita. Ireland remains the least developed member of the EC. Inflation continues to pose a problem. Unemployment is the nation's most serious economic problem, and Ireland's over 9% jobless rate is one of the largest in the EC.

Until the mid-1950's Ireland depended largely on its agricultural sector. Consecutive governments over the past 2 decades have favored a policy of rapid industrialization, and various inducements have attracted industrial investment form overseas sources. Agriculture now directly contributes about 17% of GNP, and employees are about 23% of the work force. Industrial output provides 35% of GNP, and 27% of the work force is in this sector.

Ireland has close and growing economic ties with the US, which is Ireland's second largest trade partner after the United Kingdom. Major imports from the US during 1977 included nonelectric machinery, electric machinery and goods, unmilled grain, oilseed cake, meal and residues, textile yarn and fabrics, and chemical elements and compounds. Irish exports to the US in 1977 consisted mostly of manufactured goods, such as nonelectric machinery, chemical elements and compounds, glassware, cable, transistors, and photocells, as well as beef to US forces in Europe.

The tourist sector is of great importance to Ireland as both as both an employer and foreign exchange earner. In 1977 a total of 1.9 million tourists visited Ireland, 15% of them from the US. Earnings from tourism climbed to over $400 million, 20% derived from US sources.

THE INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT OF EMBRYOS AND DISEASE CONTROL: A REGULATORY PERSPECTIVE

J.K. Atwell

Deputy Administrator, Veterinary Services
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
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Breeders of livestock have become increasingly aware that one of the best methods of importing new genetic material is through fresh or frozen embryos. They have come to realize that, for the same investment, better genetics can be imported in the form of embryos due to their greatly decreased transportation costs. Progeny resulting from embryos do nc have the acclimitization problems that imported live animals suffer. When healthy, test-negative animals are stressed, as they are in international movements, they often develop clinical diseases after arriving in the importing country. The embryo, and later the fetus, however, receives some maternal antibodies during the gestation period; and the newborn animal obtains maternal antibodies from the dam that will protect it from many of the diseases in the importing country.

With all of the above-listed advantages of utilizing embryos for obtaining new genetic material, one would expect that there would be a rapid increase in the numbers exported. There has been, and we expect to see a great deal more activity, as more countries develop the technology.

Officials responsible for animal health in most countries are concerned about the introduction of disease by embryos that have not been properly health certified. It is difficult to smuggle a cow across an ocean, but a potential new herd in the form of embryos can be carried in a briefcase using some of the newly developed containers. Realizing this, an exotic disease could break out at any time in an unexpected place and cause devastating results in the receiving country.

The public official is in a real dilemma. He has to balance available scientific knowledge on disease transmission by embryos, political resistance or political advocacy, and the knowledge that if the rules are too rigid, smuggling will occur. Regulatory officials have to be conservative, by nature, as they are delegated the responsibility of preventing the entrance of infectious diseases into their country's livestock population. With this in mind, the regulatory official's task is to minimize the risk when developing protocols for the importation of the live animal, semen, or embryos.

Through the individual and collective efforts of many International Embryo Transfer Society (IETS) members, university and Government research workers, much has been learned about the risk of disease transmission through embryo transfer. For many diseases, sufficient

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data have been accumulated to indicate that the risk of disease transmission through the embryo is minimal or nonexistent, providing embryos are handled properly. For other diseases, the data gathered to date would also support the same conclusion, but the number of animals studied is insufficient to support a statistically valid statement. For some diseases, no work has been done to indicate transmissibility by the embryo.

When IETS representatives met with the Office of International Epizooties (OIE) in December 1985, the embryo transfer industry was ably represented in the papers that were read and in the discussions that were held (1). Members of the OIE were impressed by the information presented and by the role that the IETS has taken in trying to assist the regulatory community.

As a result of that meeting, the OIE Zoo-Sanitary Code Commission has recommended for adoption Appendix 5.2.31 as amended in May 1986 (2). Appendix 5.2.31 is titled "Norms recommended by the OIE for certification on the basis of sanitary control of bovine ova/embryos which may be admitted in international trade".

The Appendix spells out: (1) aims of controls; (2) general conditions; (3) collection units; (4) processing laboratories; (5) donor animals; (6) testing of donor animals and ova/embryos; (7) collection and storage of ova/embryos; (8) optional tests and treatments; and (9) storage, quarantine, and transport.

The Code establishes two approaches for ensuring that embryos are free of pathogenic organisms (3). The more traditional or conservative method utilizes testing of the donor animal prior to collection of the embryos and again at some period of time after collection. The test results should be negative or compared to determine that titers are stable for certain diseases. The newer approach is based on work that identifies the high degree of freedom from specified bacteria or viruses of embryos that have been processed in accord with procedures recommended by the IETS. In this approach, the washing fluids and imperfect embryos/ova are collected and examined by cultural methods to determine the disease freedom of the embryos to be exported. Little or no importance is placed on serologic responses of the donor animals.

For diseases that are common to both the importing and exporting country, a test may not be required. For highly pathogenic diseases or diseases about which little data exists, and which exist in the exporting country, a combination of both the traditional and newer testing regimes may be appropriately required by the importing country to decrease the risk of importing disease. As confidence with the newer approach grows, it is likely that regulations will reflect this confidence. Regulations are not static but are under constant review and negotiation.

The United States has a policy for importation of embryos from countries not infected with foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) or rinderpest. The importer is required to obtain an import permit specifying the health requirements for importation, which are based on the disease

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status of the exporting for importation, which are based on the disease status of the exporting country. For example, Ireland and Great Britain are required to test the donor for brucellosis and tuberculosis only. Another country might be required to test for other diseases depending on their disease status and the status of the United States at the time of importation. From the perspective of the United States, it is felt that enough information is not yet available to establish the testing protocol to guarantee freedom from disease from countries infected with FMD. Additional studies must be conducted to establish this information.

Plans are progressing to conduct a study in the United States on a statistically significant number of embryos taken from FMD-positive donors in an FMD-infected country to determine if this disease can be transmitted by the embryo. The study will be conducted at the Harry S. Truman Animal Import Center, in Key West, Florida, in 1987. Susceptible recipients will be housed and monitored at this site. The results of this study, along with many other studies on various animal diseases around the world, should help the regulatory community in their continuing reassessment of import requirements for embryos.

The OIE Zoo-Sanitary Code (3) guidelines can be utilized by countries for modifying or developing their own regulations. As stated in the aims of control, "The disease situation between exporting and importing countries may be similar or dissimilar, and national prophylactic programs can vary widely, as can vaccination and testing requirements. Thus, exporting and importing countries may have different conditions for the approval of collection units, and associated processing laboratories". OIE guidelines are, therefore, useful for increasing uniformity of regulations between countries but are guidelines only.

Current evidence indicates that there is an inherent characteristic of the embryo to resist infection by disease agents. Other concerns of the regulatory official are that the embryo does not become contaminated during processing and that the embryo imported is the one identified on the health certificate. Both IETS and the American Embryo Transfer Association have manuals of procedures (4,5) that indicate how labeling and identification are to be conducted. Similarly, these manuals outline general sanitary procedures to ensure that embryos do not become contaminated during collection and processing.

In many countries, the embryo transfer industry is not regulated or licensed (which is the case in the United States) and the control is, therefore, exercised through the accredited veterinarian and through industry standards. Someone under official regulatory control should certify that all the procedures specified have been carried out. Under systems in place in most countries, veterinarians are under the control of the animal health officials. Any aberrations detected in their certifications can cause the loss of their licenses or accreditations. This is a good incentive on their part to follow the protocols and only certify what it is possible to verify.

The USDA believes that the embryo is the wave of the future for movement of high quality genetics. Working together, the embryo transfer industry and regulatory officials can safely move the embryos and improve the quality of the national livestock populations of all countries.

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2. 54th General Session OIE. Final Report. OIE, Paris. 1986.

3. International Zoo-Sanitary Code. 5th Edition. OIE, Paris. 1986.

4. Embryo Transfer Newsletter. IETS, LaPORTE. 4:26-49 (1986).

5. AETA Handling Manual. 1986.

Briefing Paper

Information for Ireland Trip

The U.S. Agricultural Counselor of Great Britain, Mr. Bud Anderson, told me in November that Dr. Gerry Cullen, Chief Veterinary Officer of Ireland, was upset because officials of NAAB and involved AI centers had cancelled plans for production of semen for export to Ireland this season.

Apparently, the AI industry was going to pay the costs for the visit of an Irish veterinary official to inspect the U.S. facilities attempting to produce semen. Dr. Cullen was informed that it was getting too late to complete the inspections and produce semen in the 1986-87 collection season.

I believe that NAAB may be planning to attempt further renegotiation in the requirements (which are more difficult than Great Britain's). Cessation of this year's plans might create more pressure on Dr. Cullen by the cattle breeders of Ireland.

There are no problems with the export of horses and hatching eggs to Ireland.

G. O. Winegar

G. O. Winegar
December 11, 1986

G. O. Wiegar
December 11, [illegible]

Briefing Paper
Issue Involving Ireland

Issue: Ireland has requested the U.S Department of Agriculture to recognize Ireland as being free of contagious equine metritis (CEM), but based on certain facts, the request is denied.

Response: A panel was convened on December 1, 1986, to evaluate the information submitted by Ireland. Based on the following facts, recognition of Ireland as free of contagious equine metritis (CEM) was not recommended:

1. Control of CEM is voluntary and applied primarily to Thoroughbred horses.

2. Although no cases of CEM have been confirmed in Ireland since 1983, there is traffic of horses between Ireland and its two partners (France and the United Kingdom) of the Tripartite Group, wherein CEM is known to exist.

3. Since Ireland's voluntary CEM control is not generally applied to non-Thoroughbred horses, the risk of allowing the disease into the United States through relaxed CEM restrictions is too great.

Briefing Paper
Involving Ireland

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection Service

Room 850, Federal Building
Hyattsville, Maryland 20782

Subject: Proposal for Scientific and
Technical Exchange Program--Ireland

Date: JUL 14 1986

To: J. S. Smith
Chief Staff Veterinarian
International Programs Support Staff

In response to your request, enclosed is the proposal for the Scientific and Technical Exchange Program, Office of International Cooperation and Development with Ireland, prepared by H. A. McDaniel.

Saul T. Wilson, Jr.
Assistant Deputy Administrator
Program Planning and Development
Veterinary Services

Enclosure

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

A. TITLE AND PARTICIPANTS

1. Proposal for Joint Activity With: Ireland

2. Proposal Title: Increasing trade in animal and animal products between the United States and Ireland and studying, planning, and developing animal health programs in Ireland.

3. Participating U.S. Specialist and Institution: Harless A. McDaniel, Veterinary Services (VS), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

4. Participating Foreign Specialists and Institutions: Irish veterinary official, Government of Ireland. (No specific individual has been named.)

5. Proposal Prepared by:

H. A. McDaniel, DVM, PhD.
Assistant Director
Program Planning and Development
Room 851, Federal Building
Hyattsville, MD 20782
Phone: 301, 436-8723
July 8, 1986

B. INSTITUTIONAL CLEARANCES:

International Operations, Veterinary Services, APHIS.

C. DETAILED DESCRIPTION

1. Description of the General Problem

Agricultural exports are decreasing. Both animals and animal products may be inapparent carriers of disease producing agents. Laws, rules, regulations, plus an abundant variety of inspection procedures, laboratory tests, and certification forms complicate export of animals and products.

One of the top priorities of USDA is to increase agricultural exports. A better understanding of the background and purpose behind this international regulatory maze of animal health issues should be helpful. Long-range planning in the United States, Ireland, and with our other trading partners to simplify international regulations without increasing the risk of spreading diseases will enhance our exports.

2. Objective of Proposed Cooperative Activity

To spend 2 weeks with various veterinary officials in Ireland who are responsible for developing, modifying, and updating their animal health regulations, especially import regulations, will provide us a better insight into how we can more readily comply and thereby increase trade in animals and

1. Proposal ... Activity ...

2. ... Foreign ... from the United States and ... Domestic ... U.S. ...

3. Participating U.S. Specialists and Institutions: ... Veterinary Services ... U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

4. ... Foreign Specialists and Institutions ...

5. Proposal Prepared by:

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July 8, 1980

INSTITUTIONAL CLEARANCE

International Operations, Veterinary Services, APHIS.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

1. ... of the Problem

... agricultural ... may be ... Laws, rules, regulations, ... laboratory tests, and ... importers and exporters.

The ... of USDA is to increase agricultural exports. ... behind this international ... should help ... and ... other ... in meeting the ... requirements.

animal products.

3. Workplan

o Proposed dates - September 15 to 26, 1986, or other dates acceptable to the United States and Ireland officials.

o Schedule of activities

- 3 days with top animal health officials to develop understanding of (1) authority delegated to veterinary officials, (2) source of authority, (3) decisionmaking process regarding regulation development.

- 3 days with veterinary staff officials responsible for drafting policy, regulations, and procedures.

- 3 days with field and laboratory personnel.

- 1 day summary visit with top veterinary officials reviewing understanding of Irish concepts and procedures.

o Scientists, institutions, or places to be visited.

- The office of the Chief Veterinarian of Ireland

- The staff responsible for developing regulations

- The principal animal disease diagnostic laboratory in Ireland.

o Methods of investigation, evaluation and recording information

Procedures used in USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services are published in Title 9, Code of Federal Regulations. The process by which USDA develops, monitors, and enforces import-export regulations will be compared with the procedures used in Ireland. Similarities and differences will be noted. Areas that appear ambiguous or difficult to understand or might be difficult for U.S. exporters to meet will be explored in detail.

4. Budget: $3,800 for transportation, per diem, car rental in Ireland, and incidental expenses. USDA, APHIS, VS will cover all salary costs and half of the transportation and per diem costs. OICD will cover other half of transportation and per diem costs.

5. Potential Benefits to U.S. Agriculture and Relevance to U.S. Problems and Priorities

a. Increase in U.S. agricultural exports to Ireland could result from a better understanding between the U.S. and Irish animal health officials regarding the procedures, policies, and regulations used to prevent spread of disease by movement of animals and animal products.

d. Higher level of understanding of animal health issues should enhance effectiveness of U.S. agricultural policies.

6. Potential Benefit to Foreign Country

a. Ireland needs some of the genetic material available from the United States to improve productivity of its livestock and poultry. For example, hatching eggs for broiler production could be imported from the United States at a much lesser cost than would be possible if produced in Ireland.

7. Background

We are not aware of any exchange of animal health regulatory officials between the United States and Ireland.

AN ROINN TALMHAÍOCHTA
(Department of Agriculture)
BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 2
(Dublin 2)

15 December, 1986.

Dr. J. P. Jordan,
Administrator,
Co-operative State Research Service,
United States Department,
304 Administration Building,
Washington DC 20250,
USA.

Dear Dr. Jordan,

I want to thank you for your letter of 2 December. I was happy to hear that you and Mr. Steinbock had an enjoyable visit to Ireland and that you felt that some progress towards the establishment of an agricultural exchange programme had been achieved.

I think your suggestions on progressing the matter further are very satisfactory to us. The working towards a meaningful list of proposals by early '87 with a view to the selection of specific potential areas by next March might be pursued. The question of a formal memorandum of understanding between the two Governments would, perhaps, arise a little later.

We would be quite happy to approach the exchange programme question on the broad lines suggested. The Department of Agriculture will be in touch with the various bodies that might be concerned like the Agricultural Institute, University faculties and the agriculture and veterinary inspectorates of this Department.

I look forward to hearing further from you.

With best wishes for the festive season,

Yours sincerely,

Patrick Power

Patrick Power
(Assistant Secretary).

United States Department of Agriculture | Cooperative State Research Service | Office of the Administrator | Washington, D.C. 20250

DEC 2 3 1986

SUBJECT: Potential Cooperation Between the Republic of Ireland and the U.S.A. Per Section 1420, Food Security Act of 1985

TO: Orville G. Bentley
Assistant Secretary
Science and Education

1. The arrival briefing and discussion was held with Ambassador Margaret M. Heckler, Deputy Chief of Mission Tom Gewecke, Economics/Commercial Officer R. Rimas and Agricultural Specialist Robin Mosse (FAS) for me and Ms Martha Steinbock (OICD). At that time a review of the background for Section 1420 was provided by Ms Steinbock with a major resulting point being that we should look for areas of mutual interest that would be as beneficial to the United States of America as to the Republic of Ireland. A short meeting was held with Rolland E. Anderson, U.S. Agricultural Counselor with responsibility for the U.K. and Ireland just prior to meeting a group of Irish leaders at the Irish Department of Agriculture. At that time, we coordinated our approach to the meeting with the Irish delegation.

2. Hosted by Dr. Paddy Power, Assistant Secretary for Science and Education, Irish Department of Agriculture, representatives of the faculties of Agriculture, the faculty of Veterinary Medicine and all major components of the Irish science and education program met as indicated in Attachment 1. This was to be an exploratory meeting and included the Agricultural Counselor, two representatives from the U.S. Embassy as well as Ms Steinbock and myself representing the United States.

   a. More interest was generated in this meeting than either side had anticipated.

   b. No basic impediments including fiscal impediments were seen to be paramount issues. The group agreed that the key factor was to have a clear identification of possible objectives and then the issue of fiscal resources could be addressed.

   c. Although in this initial meeting it was agreed that an MOU was not necessary, many voiced the opinion that it was of real value in the sense that it formalized legitimate efforts that had been going on between the U.S. and the Republic of Ireland and Counselor Anderson pointed out that Secretary Lyng had been invited to the Republic of Ireland for a date in June. Thus, if an MOU was a desirable end point, it might be signed by the Secretary at that time.

   d. Several possible broad areas were discussed including:

   X
   - o Animal Health Issues and Animal Quarantine
   - o Biotechnology
   - o Information Bases and Communications
   - o Continuing Education and Curriculum Development

- o Food Science and Technology
- o Non-Food Uses of Agricultural Products
- o Germplasm Exchange
- o Economic Research and the Farm Credit Systems of the two Countries
- o Forestry and Fisheries Issues

Additionally, some mechanical approaches to cooperation were discussed, including:

- o Exchange of Personnel (scientific, technical, and youth exchanges)
- o Joint Research Projects
- o Technology Transfer and Joint Ventures Involving Industry
- o New Approaches for Funding Research and Cooperation

3. It was clear that this exploratory meeting would put on the table more ideas than would ultimately be desirable or reasonable to carry out from the two government points of view, but in subsequent meetings some specifics began to take form. From the point of view of the Republic of Ireland, the following were identified:

a. Biotechnology

- o Exchange of scientists and technicians.
- o Field testing of the results of biotechnology research, including the involvement of the U.S. National Biological Impact Assessent Program.
- o Development of diagnostic tools with common usage in the area of quarantine and animal health.
- o Guidelines for exchange of germplasm resulting from biotechnology efforts as well as that derived from non-biotechnology approaches.

b. The Irish are interested in the Information Exchange, including database usage involving the U. S.'s Current Research Information System (CRIS) and a parallel system that is in place in Ireland. Interest included:

- o Mechanics of operating and accessing information bases and the technical end of such an effort.
- o Integration of research files.
- o Management and efficiencies related to simplicity of input into such databases.

From the point of view of the Republic of Ireland, teams could be named in relatively short order to address their issues of interest in these two areas.

c. Food quality and safety was a particularly important area. From the Irish point of view, the following were high points:

- o Antibiotic and hormonal residues in meat.
- o Consumer preferences as a driving force that have influenced dramatically the Irish approach to marketing of food and food products.
- o Consumer acceptance, in which the Irish are particularly interested in scientific data about the safety and efficacy of treatment of food and food products (for example irradiated foods).
- o Shelf life of foods and the technology needed to extend shelf life.

d. Food processing was another area of keen interest. From the Irish point of view they were hoping for:

- o Identifying some leadership for a food center in Ireland.
- o Industrial cooperation among Irish and U.S. firms.
- o Alternatives for handling dairy and meat products was of keen interest (although we indicated to them that unless it was of mutual benefit to the United States, these were areas of lesser interest to the U.S.).

e. ACOT, the Irish counterpart to the Extension Service, was keenly interested in continuing education both at the professional and non-professional level. It was hoped that some exchange of information, as well as packaging of the scientific bases of certain actions might be shared between the two nations.

f. The Irish indicated keen interest in the strategic planning for research in several dimensions:

- o Background information for national policy development.
- o Research programs themselves.
- o The socio-economic approach to modifying the viewpoint of producers relative to production practices.

g. Marketing of surplus production items was considered a critical area of interest. The similarity between the U.S. and Ireland was dramatically brought forward by analysis of data. Cooperative efforts in marketing could include (from the Irish point of view):

- o A clear statement of objectives that might be obtained from the mutual benefit of the U.S. and the Republic of Ireland.
- o The assistance of the U.S. in identifying leadership that might assist the Republic of Ireland and the U.S. in a joint effort.
- o Cooperation with industries both in the Ireland and the U.S.

- o Forestry systems and wood utilization, including the thought that certain kinds of woods might be brought to Ireland for further processing and entrance to the European Common Market.

4. Examining both U.S. interest and Irish strength, the U.S. contingency believes that several areas are worthy of further examination, including the following:

   a. Biotechnology is an area of high visibility in the U.S. Two issues surface here:

      - o The Irish are eager to provide field testing facilities for biological and chemical products of biotechnology. They have not the same public visibility with respect to environmental testing that is the cause for concerns in the U.S. courts. Mr. Paddy Hegarty, the Minister of State for the Department of Agriculture, although well aware of the potential pitfalls, was particularly enthusiastic about cooperating with the U.S. in this regard. The suggestion was that the U.S. would only forward projects for field testing that passed the RAC (Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee) examination in the U.S. and that perhaps the Irish would set up a parallel structure to review projects before they were actually field tested. This area was of high interest to the faculties of Veterinary Medicine and Agriculture.

      - o The Irish are also interested in scientific exchange and training related to biotechnology. They, like the U.S., see biotechnology as a major way to cut input costs and to make the U.S. more competitive on an international basis in agriculture.

   b. Animal Health Issues, including Quarantine and Diagnostic Tests that might be used as a common denominator in addressing issues of importability of livestock, including horses. Also the Irish are far ahead of the U.S. in addressing issues of animal welfare and have experiences that might be helpful in planning the U.S. approach to this issue. The Irish also have strengths that can be shared with parallel strengths in the U.S. in animal reproduction and in animal nutrition, especially forage related animal nutrition.

   c. A cooperative program related to marketing could be of mutual benefit. In this arena, the U.S. group thought:

      - o EEC entrance would be a major area of interest to U.S. industry, probably through joint ventures between Irish and American companies. One possibility might be a linkage with products produced in relation to the Caribbean Basin Initiative that might be brought to Ireland for final processing and entrance into the EEC.

      - o There was also considerable interest in the export of U.S. products, perhaps only partially finished that could be completed and packaged for the satisfaction of European consumers and entered into the EEC through Ireland.

- o It also seems reasonable to think about a mutual research project focusing on EEC marketing in order to obtain a better understanding of it by both the U.S. and Ireland. Obviously, the net result would be hopefully an improved competitive position of both countries in that environment.

d. With regard to information systems, there is a substantial body of information and a file of research projects in Ireland which would be of interest to the U.S. Obviously, the Irish are keenly interested in access to the enormous CRIS system in the U.S. The thought occurred to the U.S. contingency that if access through Ireland to similar files regarding the EEC could be made, it might be highly desirable and beneficial to both Ireland and the U.S.

e. In terms of a strategic planning forward, the Irish are interested in the approaches that have been taken by the Agricultural Research Service, the Economic Research Service, the Cooperative State Research Service, and the University System of the United States as well as the U.S. Forest Service in planning research. They have not nearly the massive number of audiences to balance, but nevertheless felt they could learn a great deal in terms of research planning from us. From our point of view, we are more interested in strategic planning in terms of learning more about what the EEC is doing or planning to do. So, from the U.S. vantage point, access to EEC research plans would be the quid pro quo.

f. The U.S. contingency also felt that public policy and public relation factors should not be ignored. Clearly, the Republic of Ireland is the most supportive government relative to U.S. policies that can be found in Europe. There is a great desire on the part of the Irish to maintain an active people-to-people interchange. Through Ireland, we may be able to see increased acceptance of U.S. approaches in the European community. At least it is an area that may warrant further examination.

5. Time Frame:

a. Continued telephone discussion to firm up some of the ideas during the month of December.

b. Establish a coordinating committee in each country by the end of December.

- o For Ireland, it would be under the titular leadership of Mr. Paddy Hegarty and probably physically chaired by Dr. Paddy Power.

- o In the U.S., the leadership could come either from Dr. Orville Bentley or Mr. Dan Amstutz. Either Terry Kinney or I could actually carry out the functions associated with such a coordinating committee. OICD and FAS involvement is imperative.

c. Options and proposals should be drafted by each country and exchanged in January.

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5. The Irish:

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d. Initial selection of the "most likely" areas of interest should lead to the identification of a joint Irish-U.S. study team for each to be selected in February and meet in March. Perhaps three to as many as half a dozen possibilities could be fleshed out in this way. They should yield up to four final areas of concentrated effort.

e. If it looks desirable to have an MOU, it should be drafted in April so that it could be reviewed by both countries and be available for signing if Secretary Richard E. Lyng visits Ireland in June of 1987.

5. The OICD and U.S. Embassy reports follow the same outline and are completely compatible with information contained herein. I recommend that we move forward to follow the proposed time schedule.

JOHN PATRICK JORDAN
Administrator

cc:
Congresssman Ed Madigan
Under Secretary Amstutz
Ambassador Margaret Heckler
J. S. Wallace, OICD
T. B. Kinney, ARS
B. Hawkins, APHIS ✓
R. M. Peterson, FS
J. Lee, ERS
Counselor Rolland Anderson

Attachment

POTENTIAL U.S. - IRISH COOPERATION

Meeting at Department of Agriculture
Agriculture House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2
November 24, 1986

List of Participants

IRISH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE:
Dr. Paddy Power, Assistant Secretary (in charge of science and education)
Mr. Paddy O'Connor, Deputy Director of Veterinary Services
Mr. Brendan N. MacClancy, Director of Veterinary Research Laboratory
Dr. Austin Mescall, Assistant Secretary and Chief Agricultural Inspector (Technical Staff)
Mr. Senan Molony, Principal Officer, Education and Research Division
Ms. Mona Mahoney, Higher Executive Officer, Education and Research Division
Ms. Ann Keating, Higher Executive Officer, EEC/Foreign Trade Division

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FISHERIES:
(person to be named)

THE AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE:
Professor Paddy Cunningham, Deputy Director

UNIVERSITIES:

University College Dublin:
Faculty of General Agriculture: Dr. P.L. (Leo) Curran, Dean
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine: Professor John Hannan, Dean

University College Cork:
Faculty of Dairy Science: Mr. Michael F. Murphy, Dean

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT CORPORATION (ACC):
Mr. John Hickey, Deputy Chief Executive

ACOT: Mr. Paddy Keenan, Deputy Chief Inspector

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (IDA):
Mr. Tom Maloney, Manager, Meat Division

U.S. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES:
Dr. John Patrick Jordan, Administrator, Cooperative State Research Service
Ms. Martha Steinbock, International Affairs Specialist, Office of International Cooperation and Development, Scientific and Technical Cooperation Division
Mr. Rolland E. Anderson, Jr., Agricultural Counselor, U.K. and Ireland
Mr. Algirdas J. Rimas, Economic/Commercial Officer, American Embassy, Dublin
Mr. Robin F. Mosse, Agricultural Specialist, American Embassy, Dublin

SHORT BACKGROUND ON PARTICIPATING BODIES

THE AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE. THIS IS THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH BODY FOR IRELAND. IT HAS RESPONSIBILITIES FOR RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURE AND RELATED AREAS (INCLUDING FOOD TECHNOLOGY, MARKETING AND POLICY). FOUNDED IN 1958 BY THE IRISH GOVERNMENT WITH U.S. MARSHAL AID, THE INSTITUTE COMPRISES SEVEN MAJOR RESEARCH CENTERS AROUND THE COUNTRY, EMPLOYING 250 GRADUATE STAFF AND 400 TECHNICAL STAFF.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN AND CORK. PART OF THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, THE LARGEST UNIVERSITY IN THE COUNTRY WITH IRELAND'S ONLY AGRICULTURE AND VETERINARY MEDICINE FACULTIES. UCD MAINTAINS A LARGE RESEARCH FARM NEAR DUBLIN.

ACOT. THIS IS IRELAND'S EXTENSION SERVICE AND IS FUNDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. IT ADMINISTERS THIRD LEVEL AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES CONCENTRATING ON PRACTICAL FARMING (SOMEWHAT BELOW UNIVERSITY LEVEL) AND A COUNTRY WIDE NETWORK OF FARM ADVISORS.

THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPEMENT AUTHORITY (IDA). THIS IS A GOI FINANCED BODY CHARGED WITH CREATING INDUSTRY IN IRELAND. THEY HAVE ADVISORY FUNCTIONS TO BOTH GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY AND ADMINISTER GOI AND EC GRANTS TO INDUSTRY IN IRELAND. THEIR INTEREST WOULD MAINLY BE IN PART (A) 2 OF SECTION 1420 OF THE FARM BILL (FOSTERING JOINT INVESTMENT VENTURES ETC).

THE AGRICULTURAL CREDIT CORPORATION (ACC). THE FUNCTION OF THIS SEMI STATE BODY IS PROVIDING SHORT AND MEDIUM TERM LOANS TO FARMERS, MAINLY FOR DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES. IT DOES NOT, HOWEVER, HAVE THE DAILY BANKING FUNCTIONS OF THE "HIGH STREET BANKS".

DRAFT

Dr. W. H. G. Rees
Ministry of Agriculture
Fisheries and Food
Hook Rise South, Tolworth
Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7NF, England

Dear Dr. Rees:

This is in response to your letter of December 11, 1986, concerning the Tripartite meeting held on October 28-29, 1986 in Paris, France.

Dr. Robert Reichard attended this meeting at my request so that he would become familiar with the workings and people who attend these kinds of meetings.

Here is our response to each of the matters which you spelled out listed in the same numerical order.

1. This is in reference to the rule to relay the requirements for clitoral sinusectomy. The regulation should be published in final rule in February if the rulemaking machinery has no problem. The comments of the Tripartite group concerning this regulation are being considered in the final rule.
The contagious equine metritis (CEM) regulation now allows breeding horse(s) from a country we designate CEM affected to be imported into a country recognized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Veterinary Services (VS), as free of CEM, to reside in that country for 1 year and then be imported into the United States without treatment or tests for CEM. As a safeguard, the health certificate issued by the country of origin states that the horse(s) has not been on any CEM affected premises at any time, and not been bred by or to any horses on such premises, and found infected with CEM or with horses that were imported from countries affected with CEM. The U.S. horse industry and USDA have no plans to change this regulation at this time.

An option is provided in the final rule for importing a mare without clitoral sinusectomy which reduces the 5 year recordkeeping requirement. This requirement would be used in combination with certification from a CEM affected country with a code of practice containing requirements and procedures designated to contain and eradicate CEM in that country.

The Code of Practice is defined as a voluntary system of procedures designated to reduce disease spread that is established by veterinarians and horse industry in a country. The Code includes testing, treatment, quarantine and certification of horses and hygiene for personnel conducting treatments and specimen collection of the horses.

USDA believes this Code should apply to all horses, not only Thoroughbreds, because of previous diagnoses of the CEM in horse breeds.

DRAFT

2. This concerns the supervision of preexport isolation premises for horses to comply with your import requirements. Kentucky has 74 sites that have been approved, however, they are not all being used at one time. We also have approved facilities in other States. All of these facilities are inspected prior to approval and monitered during the time the animals are in isolation. by USDA, VS veterinarians. In addition to the Federal supervision accredited veterinarian also supervise the activities at several of these facilities.

3. The immunodiffusion test is the official test for equine infectious anemia (EIA) on imported horses. We do not see the need for courtesy test using c-enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (C-ELISA) test. The C-ELISA was compared with the immunodiffusion test and the results were repeatable, and the two tests correlated.

The technical and scientific information submitted to USDA for approval of the C-ELISA test is confidential business information. Confidential business information is protected from release under the Freedom of Information Act.

We have referred your request for technical information to Dr. Tatsuo Matsushita, Tech America Diagnostics, Syngene Products and Research Inc., 225 Commerce Drive, Fort Collins, Co 80522.

4. Piroplasmosis courtsey test results for horses are reported from the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa, using the following paragraph to explain reactions. "For diagnostic purposes, a reaction of 2+ at the 1:5 serum dilution or greater is considered a positive test result. Lesser reactions may be caused by low titers of specific antibodies or nonspecific substances. Low titers of specific antibodies may be associated with early stages of infection or chronic carriers." Our laboratory releases test results at less than 3+ at 1:5 dilution because some animals with such low titers on the courtesy test have indeed been at the reactor level and refused entry on arrival in the United States.

5. We appreciate that the Tripartite Group (TG) has accepted our accredited veterinarians to supervise the isolation of horses temporarily imported into the United States for competition.

6. Our regulations provide that horses temporarily exported from the United States to countries where CEM exists are eligible to return to the United States without meeting the CEM import requirements if they enter with an import permit, and a certificate from each CEM country the horse entered. The certificate must either be signed by a salaried veterinarian of the national veterinary services of such country or signed by a veterinarian authorized by the national veterinary services of such country and endorsed by a salaried veterinarian of the national veterinary services of such country. The endorsement will represent that the veterinarian signing the certificate was authorized to do so.

The statement on the certificate may be preceded by the words "so far as I can determine after due inquiry." We recognize this will depend in part on the integrity of owners and trainers. We can only suggest that if the veterinarian making the certification has any reason to doubt the information given him during due inquiry, he then not sign the certification. We believe this statement of lact of likely exposure to CEM would be somewhat analagous to the statement required of the U.S. accredited veterinarian that TG competition horses had not been exposed to equine viral arteritis (EVA) while in this country. These statements are the only ones which, if due inquiry is made, give any assurance that horses breed maintained separate and apart during their time out of country. I think we both recognize the limitations we have because of personnel avalibility and our use of the accredited and authorized veterinarians is necessary to accomplish our services to our respective horse industries.

Comments on 7.6, 7.9 and 7.10 of the minutes from the Tripartite meeting:

7.6 Horses imported through the New York Animal Import Center (NYAIC) are allowed a walking exercise program using an importers groom. Horses imported through temporary racetrack quarantine facilities are allowed. Excercise on the track with no other horses under present and direct USDA supervision. USDA personnel availablity govern when the horses can exercise and how long.

Horses must be quarantined to determine their disease status. They cannot proceed directly to a racetrack and expose U.S. horses to piroplasmosis, equine infectious anemia, dourine or glanders.

7.9 The import centers have been contacted to change import permits to statement "permit is invalid unless accompanied by a proper health certificate."

7.10 VS recommends against recognition of countries free of glanders or dourine because these diseases are not routinely considered reportable. Should a country desire to be recognized free of these diseases, the national veterinary services organization must formally request the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Veterinary Service, recognize them free of the diseases and then respond to the questionnaire developed by VS to answer certain questions relating to the diseases, their testing and eradication programs, etc.

Following a review of the questionnaire a panel of staff veterinarians will review and recommend a decision to Dr. J. K. Atwell, Deputy Administrator, Veterinary Services.

I realize there are some areas which still need resolution and I am most willing to continue to work with the TG representatives to arrive at the best answers possible.

Sincerely,

Forwarded, Foreign Agricultural Service

cc:
Agricultural Counselor
FAS Files

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD
HOOK RISE SOUTH, TOLWORTH, SURBITON, SURREY
TELEPHONE: 01-337 6611, EXT.

Mr J K Atwell
Deputy Administrator Veterinary Service
USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection
Administration Building
Washington DC 20250
United States of America

Our Ref: EK 5445/EK 5448
GH 4051

11 December 1986

Dear John

TRIPARTITE MEETING : 28-29 OCTOBER 1986, PARIS, FRANCE

I enclose an extract from the minutes of the last Tripartite meeting held in October 1986, part of which was attended by Dr R Reichard. Those attending have expressed the view that the discussion was somewhat handicapped as inevitably it had not been possible for Dr Reichard to have been fully briefed on current issues. As a result some time during the meeting was spent providing Dr Reichard with background information, and the members of the Group believe that unless the APHIS/VS representative has relevant and personal experience related to the import and export of horses, the value of his attendance at the meeting to both USDA and to the Tripartite Group (TG) is significantly reduced. I hope that you will appreciate this point.

Turning to the detail of the Tripartite meeting, the following matters arose:-

1. Dr Reichard suggested that the provisions of the TG Code of Practice might be incorporated in the Federal Register. The TG is strongly opposed to this for the reasons stated at paragraph 7.2 in the minutes.

2. Concern was expressed about the number of isolation premises now said to be approved in Kentucky and papers have recently come to hand implying that a pre-export isolation premises in Michigan was supervised by an Accredited Veterinarian. We should be grateful for your comments on reports reaching us that at least 23 isolation premises are now approved in Kentucky, and we should also welcome your assurance that all isolation premises in Kentucky and elsewhere in the USA are supervised by whole-time salaried veterinarians of USDA who ensure that our isolation protocol is observed.

3. The meeting was informed that USDA is considering the use of a CELISA test for EIA on imported horses (your letter to me of 19 August 1986 refers). Disquiet was expressed about this possibility as there were doubts about the repeatability of the test between laboratories and also because the Coggins test is universally accepted as the standard test. The introduction of the CELISA test by USDA would require Tripartite laboratories to do 2 tests - the CELISA test as a "courtesy" test for exports to the USA and the Coggins test for the rest of the world. The capacity to carry out the Coggins test would also need to be retained by NVSL Ames, Iowa for those countries which continued to adhere to the OIE recommendation for the Coggins test for EIA. The view of the meeting was that, while greater speed was of obvious value for inter-State movement of horses in a country where the disease occurs, accuracy and repeatability are vital for an import test.

4. The meeting noted that problems were arising because of the method used by NVSL Ames to report piroplasmosis test results. We should be grateful if you would consider the solution suggested in the minutes.

5. The TG has now agreed that Accredited Veterinarians may be authorised to supervise the isolation of horses temporarily imported into the USA for competitition. A specimen copy of an amended import licence reflecting this concession will be forwarded to you as soon as possible.

6. Our explanation of the position of the TG on the return of US competition horses was given to Dr Reichard and is included in the minutes. I enclose a copy of the interim certificate to which reference is made in the minutes. I hope that we shall be able to resolve this long-standing problem before too long and if you are unable to agree to the use of the interim certificate I would be grateful for your suggestions as to how we could now proceed.

Although the numbered paragraphs above cover the major matters the TG wished to bring to the attention of USDA, we should also be grateful for your response, in due course, to the points raised at paragraphs 7.6, 7.9 and 7.10 of the minutes.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely

Howard

W H G REES

7. Meeting with the USDA

7.1 Dr Robert Reichard (USDA Veterinary Attache, Rome) then joined the meeting and was welcomed by Dr Boiteux, who explained that the large-scale movement of horses between the TG and the USA necessitated close contact between TG and USDA. Dr Reichard apologised for having been unable to obtain detailed briefing before leaving the USA, but said that he would report back to USDA any matters the TG wished to raise.

7.2 CEM

Dr Boiteux asked what was USDA's view of the Proposed Rule for relaxation of the requirements for clitoral sinusectomy, now that the deadline for the receipt of comments was past; what modifications were likely to be made to the proposal; and when the Final Rule would be published.

Dr Reichard said that he had talked to Dr Chester Gipson before leaving the USA. Dr Gipson was that day explaining the proposals to the International Breeders' Meeting and had done the same at the American Animal Health Association the previous week. All the comments were now available and none opposed relaxation in the Regulations, which was, in any case, confined to those countries which had had a Code of Practice in force for the previous 5 years. Dr Reichard said that, although at this stage the proposals were still under discussion and no definitive statement could be made, Dr Gipson was intending to change the provision

Dr Boiteux and Mr Williams explained the serious inconsistency between the Regulations imposed on countries regarded by USDA as free of CEM and those regarded as affected. Dr Reichard said that he understood that it was unlikely that this inconsistency would be removed. Delegates explained the implications of this anomaly.

Dr Reichard relayed a suggestion that the provisions of the Code of practice might be incorporated into the Final Rule in more detail.

Mr O'Connor pointed out that, were this to be done, difficulty would be caused if the Code of Practice were subsequently amended. Mr Williams, agreeing, reminded Dr Reichard that, although those responsible for the Code of Practice consulted the respective Ministries informally, it was not within the power of any one of the TG's veterinary services to influence the content of the Code.

Dr Fevrier asked whether the new proposals would apply to a trotter mare, for example. Mr Williams thought that they would, provided that the mare could satisfy the certification requirements.

Dr Boiteux, Mr O'Conner and Mr Williams all reported feedback from the industry to the effect that the usefulness of the proposal was very seriously limited by its severity and that, in many cases, it might be easier to carry out a sinusectomy than to obtain detailed records of the mare for the previous 5 years.

7.3 EVA

Dr Boiteux recalled that the TG had made a particular effort to facilitate trade with the USA by removing the requirement for pre-export quarantine outside Kentucky. Dr Atwell had indicated to the Tripartite delegation in Kentucky in November 1985 that the number of premises approved, were a relaxation to be made, would be small and would reflect the ability of USDA to supervise them adequately. But the TG now understood that 23 quarantine premises had been approved. For reassurance, Dr Boiteux asked how they were supervised, by whom, and what conditions were applied. The TG also wished to know if any more premises were to be approved in Kentucky.

Dr Reichard said that he understood there was some confusion in the TG about the role of Accredited Veterinarians, but Mr Williams reminded him that discussion about the use of Accredited Veterinarians related solely and specifically to the supervision of TG horses temporarily exported to the USA for competition and that no decision on this had yet been communicated to the USDA. TG conditions for permanent importation had always required that pre-export isolation should be supervised by full-time salaried veterinarians of USDA. Dr Reichard undertook to refer these queries back to USDA.

7.4 CELISA Test for EIA

Dr Boiteux said that the TG had seen and discussed the Final Rule authorising use of the CELISA test for EIA during Inter-State movements in the USA and had established, in correspondence with Dr Atwell, that its use was being considered for import tests. The TG wished to know what studies had been done to compare the new test with the Coggins test and what results had been obtained. Also, there were doubts about the repeatability of test results between laboratories; had USDA any figures on this?

Mr Williams explained to Dr Reichard that clinical cases of EIA occurred only exceptionally in the TG and sero-positive animals were extremely rare; nevertheless, "courtesy" tests were carried out in all 3 countries to ensure that animals were sero-negative before they left for the USA. The TG's concern about the possible use of the CELISA test was therefore twofold; first, that it should be at least as reliable and repeatable as the Coggins test; and second, that for the "courtesy" tests to have any purpose, laboratories in the TG might have to start using the test to ensure compatability with US requirements, while every other country in the world accepted the Coggins test, which was the OIE standard.

Dr Reichard agreed to pass on the views and questions of the TG.

7.5 Piroplasmosis

Dr Boiteux explained that "courtesy" test samples for piroplasmosis were sent by French exporters to NVSL Ames, Iowa for testing. The test results were merely reported (eg "trace at 1:5") instead of being interpreted in accordance with the "Protocol for the CFT for Equine Piroplasmosis of the US Equine Piroplasmosis Committee". This policy resulted in confusion for the trade and had in at least one case been the cause of a contract being cancelled by an American importer who had regarded the results as equivocal when, in fact, they were negative. The TG accepted that, especially with a disease such as piroplasmosis, results obtained from a "courtesy" test prior to export provided no absolute guarantee for the results of the definitive post-import test. Nevertheless, it was felt that NVSL Ames could perfectly properly report the results as "negative", "suspicious"or "positive", in accordance with the Protocol and with the inclusion of an appropriate disclaimer.

Mr O'Connor mentioned that aberrant results were sometimes obtained to such tests. One horse of US origin had failed a "courtesy" test for piroplasmosis one year, but had passed next year and been successfully imported into the USA.

7.6 Quarantine in the USA of horses temporarily imported from the TG

Dr Fevrier told Dr Reichard that horses in hard training imported into the USA for competition were sometimes handicapped by the conditions under which they were kept in Federal quarantine. He assumed that this was due to poor organisation and asked that such horses should be allowed to proceed straight to the race track, where adequate facilities existed for quarantine and exercise.

7.7 Accredited Veterinarians

Dr Boiteux informed Dr Reichard that the TG had now agreed to the use of Accredited Veterinarians for the supervision of horses temporarily imported into the USA from TG countries. The decision had been made on the strength of information provided by Dr Gipson to the last meeting and would be communicated to USDA in writing. TG import licences would be amended to reflect the change in policy.

7.8 Return to the USA of US competition horses

Mr Williams explained that discussion about the certification required for such horses to re-enter the USA had been proceeding for some years. USDA's latest position, communicated in a letter from Dr Atwell to Mr Rees, the British CVO, was that Federal Regulations would not be changed, but that the statements required by the Regulations could be preceded by the words "so far as I can determine after due enquiry ...".

The TG position was that a certifying veterinarian would very rarely, if ever, be able to sign such certification from his own knowledge and would therefore have to rely on declarations from lay people with direct knowledge. The certificate could, even then, be no more accurate than the declaration and since it called for no certification of clinical health or disease freedom the certifying veterinarian would risk his professional reputation without exercising his clinical privilege. The TG were not prepared to ask their certifying veterinarians to do this. They would, however, continue to sign the "interim" certificate, drafted after the meeting between the TG and Dr Atwell in Paris in August 1984; this certificate did provide certification of clinical health. Mr Williams suggested that the Code of Federal Regulations gave Dr Atwell the power to accept such certification (9 CFR 92.2 (a)); US competitors would otherwise be handicapped in their choice of horses for competitions in TG countries, lest they should have difficulty in returning them to the USA.

Dr Reichard remarked that this appeared to be an ethical problem which he would relay to USDA.

7.9 Amendment of US Import Permits

Dr Boiteux said that US import permits did not necessarily reflect USDA import policy. Mr Williams explained that, although Dr Atwell had accepted that GB export health certificates satisfied the Federal Regulations (his letters to Mr Rees of 15 April 1986 and 19 August 1986 referred), US import permits still stated "permit invalid unless accompanied by the attached completed health certificate". This was confusing to exporters, shipping agents and certifying veterinarians.

7.10 Declaration of country freedom

Mr O'Connor explained that all the TG countries had been free of glanders and dourine for many years and that UK and ROI were also free of EIA and piroplasmosis, but all horses from all 3 countries were tested for all 4 diseases on entry into the USA. The American Horse Council had suggested that the tests might be waived, with a consequent saving of time spent in import quarantine, if the USDA would accept that TG countries were free from certain diseases. Mr O'Connor asked what USDA policy was on this matter.

Dr Reichard regretted that he had been unable to provide definitive answers to points raised by the TG, but promised to relay them to APHIS for consideration. It was agreed that any reply should be sent to Mr Rees for the attention of the Secretariat of the TG

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES FOR SCOTLAND
WELSH OFFICE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

EXPORT TO USA OF TEMPORARILY IMPORTED US HORSES NO.....
HEALTH CERTIFICATE
EXPORTING COUNTRY: UNITED KINGDOM (GREAT BRITAIN)

I. Identification of the animal

Name:

Breed: Age: Colour: Sex:

A full description using the sketch on page 4 MUST be completed. Whorls on head and neck must be described in the narrative and indicated by a small cross (x).

II. Origin of the animal

(a) Name and address of exporter .....

.....

(b) Address of premises where the animal was examined

.....

.....

(c) Name and address of owner .....

.....

III. Destination of the animal

(a) Name and address of consignee .....

.....

(b) Means of transportation .....

IV. Health Information

I, the undersigned, certify that the horse identified above meets the following requirements:

(a) on ..... *(date) I examined the horse and found it to be free from clinical signs of infectious or contagious disease (including contagious equine metritis);

(b) so far as I can determine after due enquiry, the horse has not since importation from the United States of America on ..... (date)

(i) been in contact with any horse affected with contagious equine metritis;

(ii) been on any premises where contagious equine metritis exists;

(iii) been on any premises where breeding of horses was taking place.

V. This certificate is valid for 10 days.

Date

Signed.....

Name in block letters .....

Local Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Official Stamp

I, the undersigned, being a salaried veterinarian of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, certify that ..... holds an appointment as a Local Veterinary Inspector of this Ministry.

Official Stamp

Signed .....

Name in block letters

.....

Date

Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Address .....

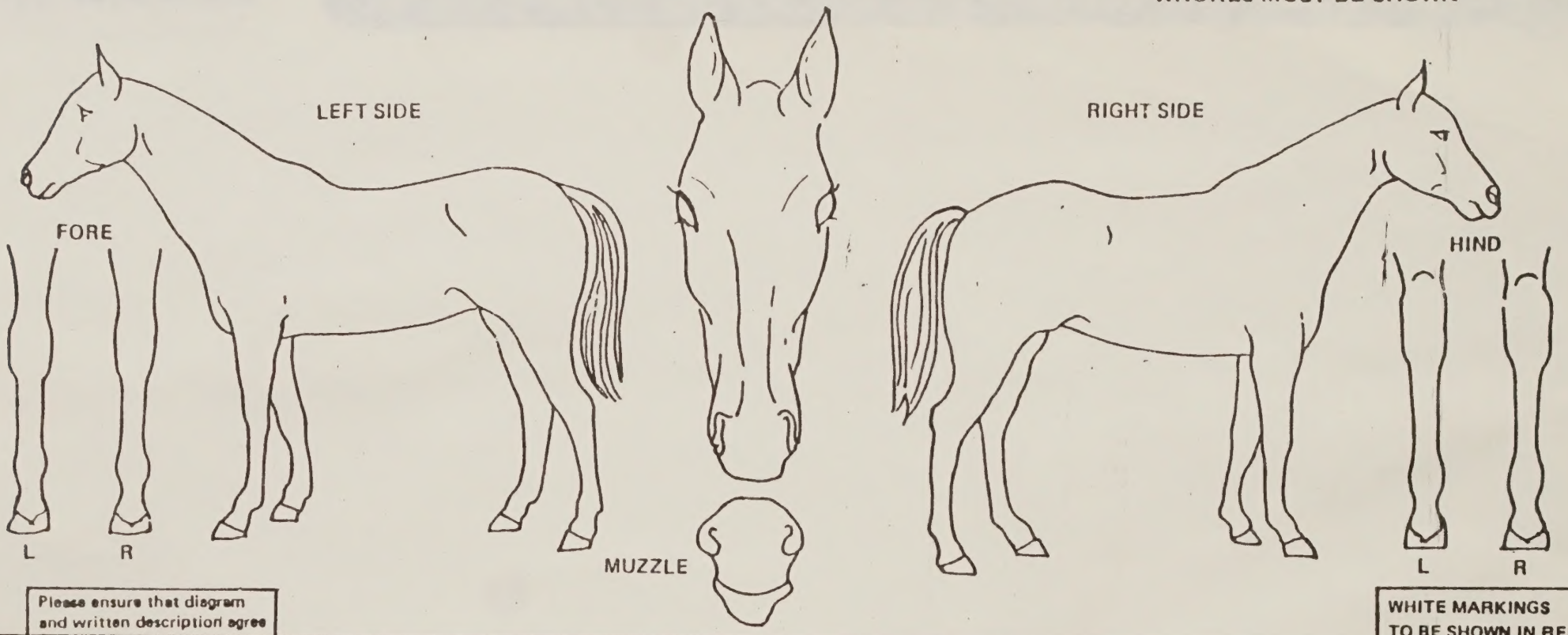
.....

.....

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Hook Rise South
Surbiton
Surrey
KT6 7NF

Cleared (10/85)

WHORLS MUST BE SHOWN



Please ensure that diagram and written description agree

WHITE MARKINGS TO BE SHOWN IN RED

NAME	BREED	AGE	COLOUR	SEX

HEAD

LIMBS LF, RF, LH, RH

BODY

ACQUIRED MARKS
(Scars, Tattoos etc.)

INSTRUCTIONS - Mark the diagram with the exact position of any distinguishing marks, scars or brands. Brands to be drawn in position. Scars to be marked and indicated with an arrow (⟶). Stars or blazes on the face and any other marking to be drawn in on the diagrams showing position and shape as accurately as possible. Whorls should be marked with a cross (x). If no markings - this fact should be stated.

A photocopy of a passport sillhouette may be substituted for this silhouette (See AHC 84/2)